

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR § 1.116 because the amendment: (1) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (3) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (4) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116, the rejected claims are cancelled by this amendment. The claim objected to, Claim 101, is cancelled as it was rewritten in independent form in the previous submission as Claim 104, now allowable. The application is now in condition for allowance with all claims (Claims 104-114).

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims of the present invention define subject matter patentable over the references cited by the Examiner and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

In connection with this response, Applicants are filing herewith a request for a one month extension of time and associated fee. If an additional fee is required, the

Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 03-2469.

Respectfully Submitted,



JOHN N. COULBY, REG. NO. 43,565
COLLIER SHANNON SCOTT, PLLC
3050 K Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 342-8400

Date: April 1, 2002